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Sen. Kuipers' litter hotline bill passes as part of broad recycling package

LANSING – Legislation that implements recommendations of the Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force was passed by the Senate today, said Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland.

The package — including Kuipers' Senate Bill 860, which creates an anti-litter hotline — targets ways to improve Michigan's 20-percent recycling rate. Other parts of the package create a new littering disincentive program to keep Michigan forests and fields clear of trash and refuse.

"We have to make sure our environment is as pristine as we can keep it," Kuipers said. "Fighting littering and pushing for easier recycling ensures we protect our environment and preserve our natural resources for future generations."

Kuipers' bill would require the Michigan Department of Transportation to create a statewide toll-free telephone number to receive information about littering violations.

The recycling package aims to increase the level of recycling statewide. Michigan lags many other Great Lakes states in recycling. Key parts of the package would:

- Allow for a new source of funding to help local recycling centers;
- Stimulate market development for recyclables;
- Provide for a comprehensive litter study and anti-litter marketing campaign;
- Expand current adopt-a-resource programs to allow for reporting on litter; and
- Establish short- and long-term recycling goals for the state.

The package heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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